

# CAUTION!

Fall/Winter 2007

Illinois Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Magazine

## Lowest Motor Vehicle Fatality Rate Since 1924

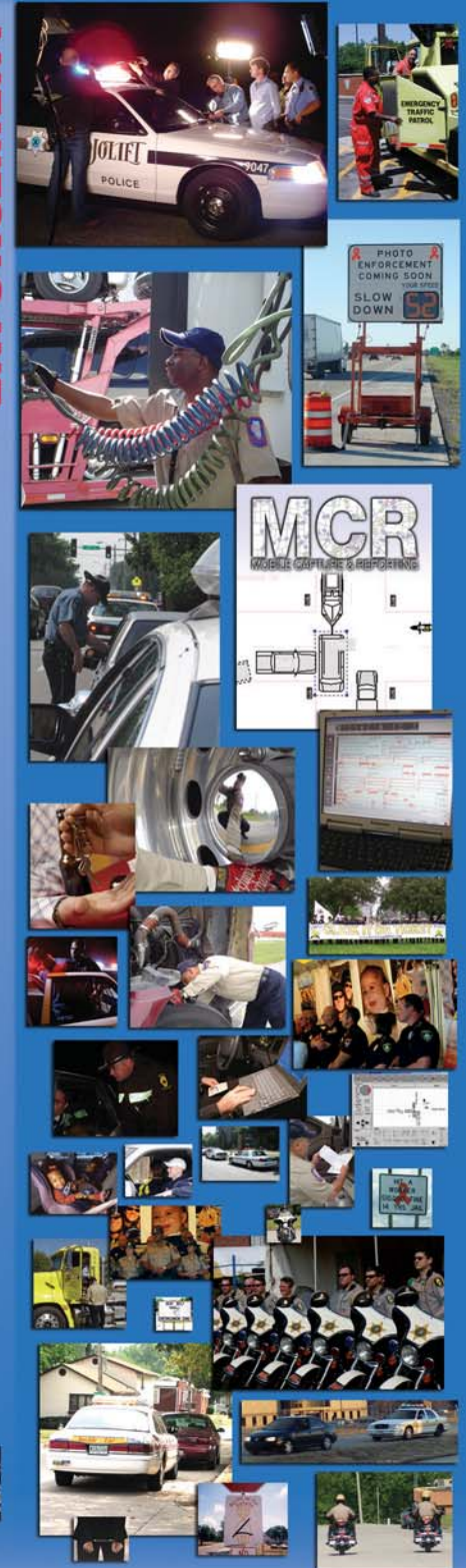
EDUCATION



MEDIA



ENFORCEMENT



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Illinois currently has its lowest motor vehicle fatality rate since 1924. There are many components that go into keeping our roads safe. Clearly the engineering and design aspects are critical and probably the most notable. On the cover of this issue of CAUTION! Magazine we want to highlight the roles that education, media and enforcement play.

**EDUCATION** - This includes educating the public on all aspects of traffic safety initiatives and laws including the dangers of impaired driving, the importance of safety belts, child passenger safety, school bus safety and motorcycle and motor carrier safety. The Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety (IDOT/DTS) provides the general public, at no charge, a variety of educational materials to promote traffic safety. Events, meetings and conferences are also held to educate the public, community leaders and grassroots organizations.

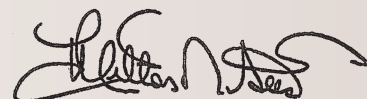
**MEDIA** - Paid media is a necessary component of any successful public relations campaign. The concept is simple – paid media strongly reinforces the perception that you will get a ticket if you don't obey the law. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) is committed to paid advertising because Illinois and other states have proven it to be highly effective.

Utilization of federal safety dollars for paid media has been a successful endeavor by DTS. Beginning in the 1960's the safety belt message has been disseminated to the motoring public through public service announcements, educational/informational brochures and through promotional items. The Click It or Ticket campaign has been extremely successful. Illinois currently is at an all-time high of 90.1 percent for front seat occupants wearing safety belts. This is an excellent achievement which stands among the highest usage rates among other states.

**ENFORCEMENT** - During the Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket" mobilization, motorists saw more than 3,600 safety belt enforcement zones statewide, with almost 700 enforcement zones held after dark. IDOT/DTS and Illinois State Police partnered with more than 300 local police agencies to conduct the largest nighttime safety belt enforcement effort in Illinois. In 1966 Congress passed the Highway Safety Act, which established the Section 402 Highway Safety Program. The Section 402 program is a grant program which provides funds for local communities and state agencies to coordinate highway safety countermeasures aimed at reducing highway crashes and resulting deaths and injuries.

Among those areas that offer the greatest potential for improving highway safety, NHTSA and the Federal Highway Administration identified occupant protection, alcohol countermeasures, police traffic services, traffic records, motorcycle safety, bicycle and pedestrian safety, roadway safety, safe communities and speed control.

Through the collaborative efforts of IDOT/DTS staff, community leaders, personnel from other agencies and the dedicated members of grass root organizations, the tools of education, media and enforcement come to life and play a vital role in traffic safety.



Milton R. Sees  
Secretary



Driving around central and southern Illinois, it's quite apparent that change is coming rapidly upon us. The leaves on the trees are turning from green to various shades of brown, making for a beautiful background. This change is a reminder that cold weather and icy roads will follow. Now is the time to prepare for winter weather. Everyone should make sure that their vehicles are ready for cold temperatures and slick pavements.

It's also time to prepare mentally for these same conditions. The large number of crashes that take place when we receive the first batch of inclement weather always amazes me. So Illinois, get ready Old Man Winter is just around the corner.

Last year was the safest in Illinois since 1924, with 1,254 traffic fatalities. This year a record breaking 90.1 percent of front seat occupants are wearing their safety belt. The past four years rank in the top ten of the safest in Illinois history. But we are still concerned because on the average 3 people die daily on Illinois roadways.

About a year ago I attended a Governor's Highway Safety Association conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. While in Oklahoma City, we were able to visit the federal building bombing site. This experience reminded me so much of previous visits to Ground Zero in New York City and the Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor. When you walk into a room and view 168 photographs of the victims, each accompanied by a personal article, it is a very hallow feeling. Once outside of the museum, that terribly sad feeling changed to anger. How could anyone do this? I found myself reliving the anger our country experienced when this tragic loss of life took place due to a senseless act.

It bothers me just as much that over 42,000 people die on our nation's roadways each year. Several months ago, a crash took place in southern Illinois killing five members of a family by an alleged drunk driver, who also died in the crash. A grandmother, father, mother and two very young children lost their lives...such a tragedy. Some people believe we are too tough on drunk drivers! Not me!

Our numbers in Illinois are moving in the right direction, safety belt use is up and impaired driver related fatalities are down. I want to thank everyone who has played a role in this improvement. Our law enforcements partners are on the front line doing a fantastic job. Our friends in the media are always receptive to covering press events and getting the word out. During the past year many radio and television stations have opened their studios to members of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) staff to discuss traffic safety issues; we thank them for getting our message out. Our safety staff at IDOT works diligently to make Illinois safer (many of these employees are working in the background) and it is working. I'm proud of everyone, keep up the good work. But most of all, thank you Illinois residents and visitors for buckling up, slowing down and not drinking and driving.

**Remember, winter weather makes traveling more of a challenge. Slow down, take your time, it's better to arrive late than not arrive at all.**

*Michael R. Stout*  
Michael R. Stout  
Director





### DTS PROMOTES SAFETY MESSAGE WITH NASCAR!

Since NASCAR is America's fastest-growing sport, the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety (IDOT/DTS) utilized its popularity to promote the "buckle-up" message to NASCAR fans. On July 14-15, 2007, the Chicago Land Speedway hosted the USG DUROCK 300 and USG SHEETROCK 400. The races were expected to attract more than 100,000 racing fans.

"In order to increase awareness of our DTS mission, we must venture into new ways to stimulate a response among intended audiences. At the Busch and Nextel Cup Series, 760 racing fans pledged to always buckle up, every trip, every time. With our statewide safety belt compliance rate at 90 percent, we need to utilize new mediums to maintain these strong numbers and, at the same time, look for ways to improve them," said Michael Stout, DTS Director.

The IDOT/DTS partnered with the Blu Moon Strategic Marketing Firm and the Richard Petty Driving Experience Team to creatively promote the "buckle up" message. Wireless Bluetooth technology along with a state-of-the-art printing system provided fans with free digitally-created photographs. NASCAR fans were invited to sign a pledge card to always buckle up and to make sure passengers in their vehicle are properly restrained at all times. After signing the pledge, their photograph was taken standing beside Richard Petty's race-car. Among the participants signing pledges were NASCAR President Michael Helton, NASCAR Office Depot Driver Carl Edwards and Roush Racing Senior Vice President of Marketing Torrey Galda.

"Race fans were significantly impressed with the use of Bluetooth technology to project traffic safety messages. Not only did pleased fans walk away with free digital pictures, but now they will be reminded to buckle up every time they glance at their picture," said Ed Hoover, DTS Bureau Chief of Safety Programs and Administrative Services.

By Josh Kauffman, DTS Public Relations Staff Assistant Intern

### ILLINOIS CYCLE RIDER SAFETY

The Illinois Cycle Rider Safety Training Program is winding down after a very successful training season and is on target to train more than 15,000 students in both beginner and experienced motorcycle safety courses. This represents a 10 percent increase in training over 2006 with a similar increase anticipated for 2008.



In addition to the motorcycle training program, DTS has taken advantage of Federal 2010 monies to fund a Start Seeing Motorcycles and Don't Drink and Ride awareness campaigns. High-visibility 30' X 3' banners with the Start Seeing Motorcycle message were distributed statewide to local police agencies that had experienced a high number of motorcycle crashes. To further heighten motorists' awareness, over 19,000 radio spots were aired focusing on Start Seeing Motorcycles and the Don't Drink and Ride messages. DTS staff also promoted the awareness campaigns at the Peoria Tourist Trophy event held August 19, 2007 and the Springfield Mile held September 1-2, 2007. Over 25,000 motorcyclists attended the events.



As part of the Windshield Washing Project, during weekends in May, approximately 30 motorcycle organizations washed over 3,000 windshields at rest areas throughout Illinois. Share the Road brochures were also distributed to remind motorists that the number of motorcycles in the traffic environment increases during the summer months. The program's goal is to increase motorist's awareness of motorcycles and reduce the number of motorist/motorcycle-related crashes

By Joe Lindsay & John Brandon  
IDOT/DTS Cycle Rider Safety Coordinators



## IDOT Career Day

Early Thursday morning, September 20, 2007 the Harry Hanley Building in Springfield was covered in a sea of orange as over 100 Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) employee volunteers and industry partners put the finishing touches on welcoming high school students to experience the first IDOT Career Day. "Jobs in the transportation field serve the public in so many different ways. Our goal is to reach students at an early age and to open their eyes to professionally and financially rewarding careers in the transportation sector," said Milton Sees, IDOT Secretary.



Ann Schneider, Director of IDOT's Office of Finance and Administration whose office took the lead in planning the event stated, "Our first IDOT Career Day, for high school juniors and seniors, was an overwhelming success. We had 235 kids from 10 high schools and 1 career center participate in over a dozen activities that exposed kids to career opportunities in the construction trades, engineering and

state government. Many of the students would not have been aware of these opportunities without their participation in this event."

Invitations were sent to several central Illinois schools and the interest and participation far exceeded expectations. In attendance were Springfield schools: Southeast High, Springfield High, Lanphier High, Douglas, Lawrence Adult Education Center and the Capital Area Career Center. Decatur schools that attended were Eisenhower and MacArthur. Virden High, Pleasant Plains and New Berlin high schools also participated.

Students were excited about the activities they were able to experience. D.J. Martin of MacArthur said he decided to come out for the day because it sounded like a good way to get away for the day, but had no idea that he would be exposed to all the equipment and hands on activities. D.J. said he was glad that he decided to come. He said, "The question is not if I will attend college, but where I will attend." D.J. wants to study mechanical or bio-medical engineering and said after attending this career day he would consider a career with IDOT when he graduates from college.

William Hood, senior at MacArthur High said "I am having such a good time that I don't want it to end!" T. Talley, III of Eisenhower, a sophomore, said two of his favorite subjects are math and spanish and he plans on attending college when he graduates.



## SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

This year's event was a pilot program which has exceeded initial expectations in terms of interested students. Evaluations are being reviewed and based on the success of the day; this program may be expanded to other IDOT regions.

The careers highlighted included civil engineering, engineering technology, safety engineering, surveying and construction trades. According to the Department of Labor, the number of wage and salary jobs in the construction industry is expected to grow approximately 15 percent through the year 2012 and numerous job opportunities in other sectors of transportation are expected to open as baby boomers retire.

Through the collaboration of IDOT and its many partners, it is believed that our youth can be inspired to consider one of the many rewarding careers in transportation, providing the industry with the professionals of tomorrow. ⚠️

By Dianne Williams, Community Relations Manager, Chicago





# Next Year's Impaired Driving Programs



Every 30 minutes, someone in America dies at the hands of an impaired driver. Someone's friend, someone's family member, someone's teacher... someone who should not have died.

It is each and every one of these individuals and every motorist and pedestrian killed and injured

at the hands of an impaired driver each year in Illinois who give the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Safety (IDOT/DTS) the motivation to continue that battle against impaired driving.

In the coming year, many exciting things are on the horizon in the fight against impaired driving in Illinois. Some initiatives are new, and some are tried and true tactics that have proven effective at keeping impaired drivers off Illinois roads. Here are just a few of those tactics and initiatives.

First and foremost, those people who chose to drive impaired in Illinois can expect to be arrested. In the coming year, DTS will continue a strong emphasis on high-visibility, impaired driving enforcement with local, county and state law enforcement agencies. DTS will also continue to support this enforcement with paid media and earned media efforts, creating the highest possible deterrent effect to those who would get behind the wheel or operate a motorcycle while impaired. In addition, DTS law enforcement liaisons will continue their effort to recruit new police departments and/or officers who want to step-up impaired driving enforcement.

Also in the coming year, DTS will work hard at implementing some new and innovative ways to conquer the impaired driving problem. Examples of this includes DUI Courts, screening and brief intervention programs and strong emphasis on Illinois' new ignition interlock law that requires an interlock device for every DUI offender. DTS is excited about the possibilities of DUI Courts in Illinois, particularly with the new ignition interlock law that will become effective January 1, 2009. DUI Courts allow a much higher level of offender accountability,

thereby reducing the chance of him or her becoming a repeat offender. DTS will work hard to implement at least one true DUI Court in Illinois in the coming months, and will be looking at implementation of more in the future.

**men•ace** |'menəs|

A possible source of danger or harm.  
Impaired driving is a public menace.

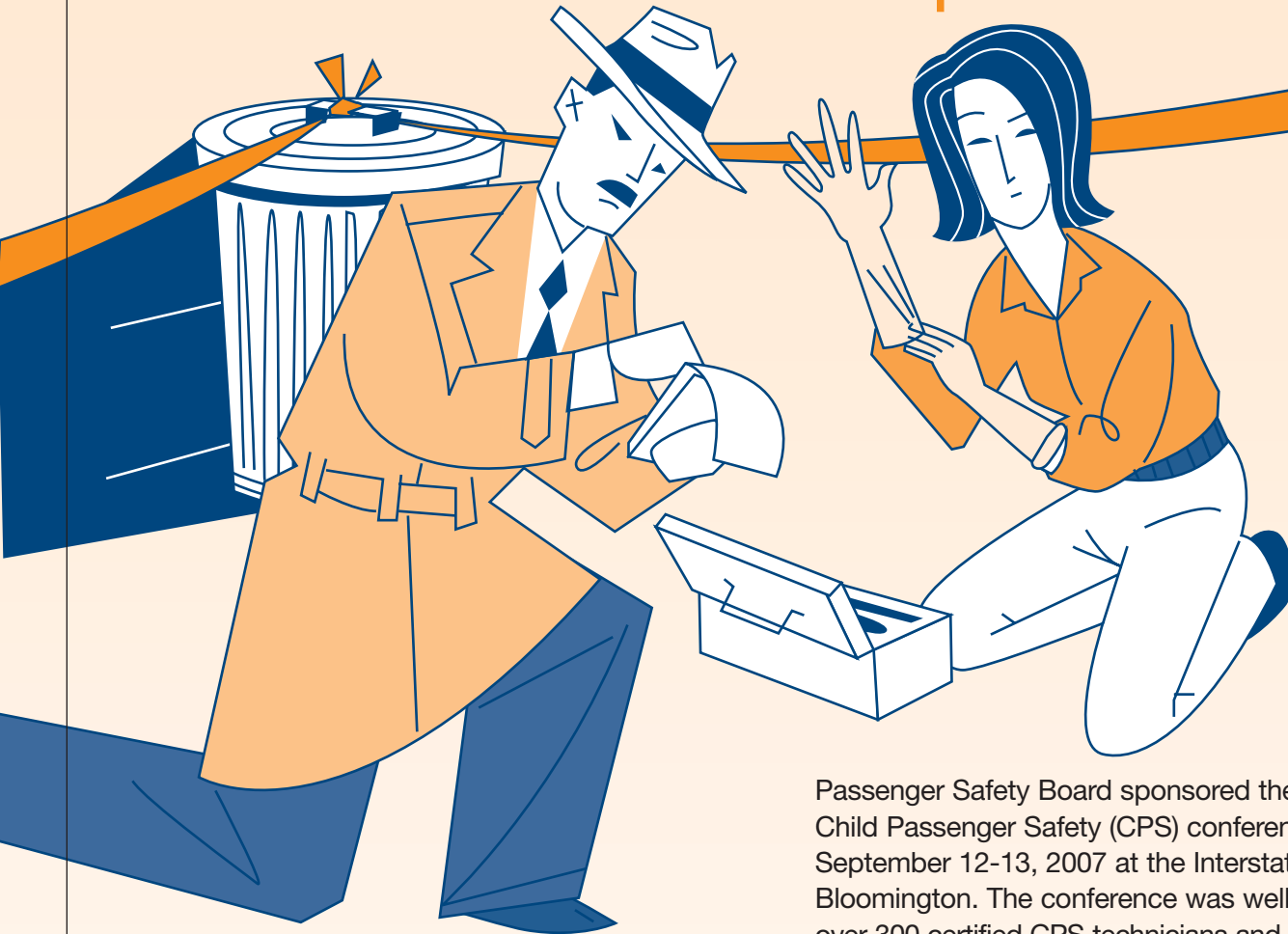
Next on the innovative initiative front, is "Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment." This is not a new concept, but, while it has been proven effective at reducing troublesome alcohol-related behavior like impaired driving, it simply is not a widely used practice in emergency departments. In short, a "brief intervention" is a short interview conducted by a medical professional or even a social worker at the time an individual is in an emergency department. If this interview finds that the individual has an alcohol abuse problem, he or she is referred to treatment. Just identifying a real problem can be the first step in reducing or eliminating alcohol consumption, and that in-turn can lead to a reduction in impaired driving. This is a concept the National Highway Transportation Administration has been studying for some time, and DTS will be taking a more in-depth look at it this year to determine its potential.

Finally, on January 1, 2009, Illinois law will require that every DUI offender must drive a car equipped with an ignition interlock device. This will bring about a huge increase in the number of ignition interlock devices used throughout Illinois (from 3,000 to an estimated 35,000 to 40,000). Previously, the law required the devices only for repeat offenders. Similar laws passed in other states have been effective in reducing DUI recidivism and also alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities. New Mexico, for instance, saw a 12 percent decrease in alcohol-related fatalities in just one year. DTS will be working hard with the Illinois Secretary of State's Office, the Illinois judiciary and others over the next 15 months to help implement this law as effectively and efficiently as possible. The potential positive impact of this new law is very exciting! ⚠️

By Shannon Alderman, Alcohol Programs Coordinator

# CSI: Illinois

## Child Seat Inspector



According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), approximately 7,500 lives have been saved by the proper use of child restraints during the past 20 years. Children's lives have been saved due to a combination of strong legislation, improved engineering of child safety seats and the increase of certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians nationwide. Technicians educate parents on the correct use of their child safety seats and are an instrumental resource to the police departments, fire departments, hospitals, health departments and child care facilities they serve.

The Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety (IDOT/DTS) and the Illinois Child

Passenger Safety Board sponsored the 2nd Illinois Child Passenger Safety (CPS) conference. It was held September 12-13, 2007 at the Interstate Center in Bloomington. The conference was well attended by over 300 certified CPS technicians and instructors from across the state. The conference is also one tool to support the recertification of nationally certified CPS technicians. To retain national certification, technicians must attain Continuing Education Units during their two-year certification cycle.

This year's conference began with a tour of Mitsubishi Motors North America. During the Mitsubishi tour, technicians learned about new vehicle safety features and the new Mitsubishi program-Kids Safety First. Kids Safety First was founded in 2004 by Mitsubishi employees as a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting automotive child safety. More information about their program can be found at [www.kidssafetyfirst.org](http://www.kidssafetyfirst.org). The tour was followed by



a Welcome Reception in the Exhibitor Hall of the Interstate Center where technicians showcased their skills and networked with colleagues.

Day two of the conference opened with keynote speakers who are all national experts in traffic safety and occupant protection. The speakers were Pam Holt, Chairperson of the National Child Passenger Safety Board; Joe Colella, National Director of Traffic Safety Projects; Tom Baloga, Vice President of Engineering, BMW North America and the past president of Britax, USA; Rebekah Baranowski, National Trainer, SafeGuard Child Safety Seats a division of IMMI and Jed Lam, Executive Vice President, Aeffect Marketing, Inc. They collectively aided technicians in their recertification through lecture, tours and manufacturer exhibits. They also unveiled new information in child passenger safety, occupant restraint, vehicle safety systems and social marketing. The conference is also one tool to support the recertification of nationally certified CPS technicians. To retain national certification, technicians must attain Continuing Education Units during their two-year certification cycle.


Tom Baloga traveled from New Jersey to discuss cutting-edge innovation in the automotive industry. His presentation entitled, Maximizing Traffic Safety: Crash Worthiness vs. Crash Avoidance focused on moving people from thinking of crashes as inevitable with an expectation that the automotive industry will continue a proliferation of “protect me” features like airbags and structures to absorb energy. He explained the future benefits in crash worthiness have peaked and the best efficiency for protection will come with crash avoidance. Joe Colella provided a national update on research, regulations, products and issues related to the CPS field. Pam Holt presented Can you check a car seat without getting into the vehicle? Ms. Holt gave practical advice through interactive lecture and PowerPoint with embedded video to show technicians how to talk a parent through a child safety seat check without ever getting into the vehicle. She reminded technicians that we must empower parents to check their own child safety seats instead of running an installation service. Rebekah Baranowski of IMMI (a leading manufacturer of child restraints for automobiles, school buses and ambulances) provided updates on their innovative products. She also intro-

duced the SafeGuard GO Booster that has an internal harness weight limit of 25-60 pounds and height of 31”- 52”. Jed Lam discussed social marketing techniques to reach the 8-15 year old “tween” population. His presentation reviewed results from formative and secondary research conducted by NHTSA in 2005-2006. Conclusions presented focused on audience segments identified within 8-15 year olds and the motivations and barriers among children and parents to proper safety belt usage. He also presented potential communication message themes for each audience group to increase proper safety belt usage.

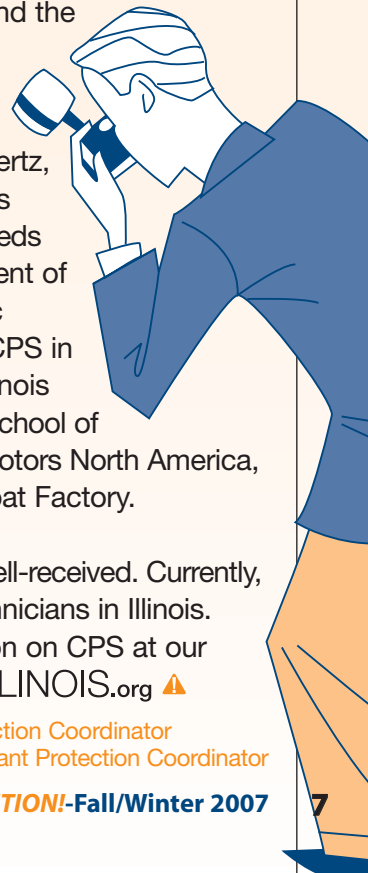
During the conference, the 2007 Illinois CPS Conference Award winners were announced. They are as follows:

- Kathy White, Southeastern Illinois Occupant Protection Resource Center - IDOT/DTS Award for Highest CPS Technician Retention
- Sergeant William Emery, Illinois State Police - 2005 Kuska Award for individual excellence in CPS
- Master Patrol Officer Paul Albright, Joliet Police Department - 2006 Kuska Award for individual excellence in CPS
- Peoria County Safe Kids Coalition, 2005 Red, White and Blue CPS Coalition Award
- Adams County Safe Kids Coalition, 2006 Red, White and Blue CPS Coalition Award

Exhibitors, who flew in from around the nation to support the conference, included: Mercury Distributing, Graco, Illinois Traffic Safety Leaders, American Red Cross, Hertz, Be a Buckle Buddy, the Children’s Hospital of Illinois CPS Special Needs Resource Center, Illinois Department of Transportation’s Division of Traffic Safety, the Advisory Council for CPS in Chicago, Safe Kids Illinois, the Illinois Injury Prevention Coalition, SIU School of Medicine–ThinkFirst, Mitsubishi Motors North America, and Baby Depot at Burlington Coat Factory.

The successful conference was well-received. Currently, there are 1,905 certified CPS technicians in Illinois. You can find additional information on CPS at our website, [www.BUCKLEUPILLINOIS.org](http://www.BUCKLEUPILLINOIS.org) 

By Jahari Piersol, State Occupant Protection Coordinator  
Megan O’Connor, Assistant State Occupant Protection Coordinator



# Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program Update

As I sit down to write this article, I find it hard to believe that it has been a year and a half since first coming to work for the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety (IDOT/DTS) as the state's first Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP). It has been a very busy year, with training prosecutors and law enforcement taking precedence on the agenda. Also high priorities were determining the status of Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) program in Illinois and improving communication among partners in the criminal justice system.

The advent of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education for attorneys, combined with the fact that the most inexperienced prosecutors typically handle DUI and traffic cases, means that the demand is high for quality training in traffic-related cases. To satisfy this need, I created several one-day trainings that have been presented throughout the state. These include: Practical DUI: Nuts & Bolts, Advanced DUI: Beyond SFSTs, Criminal Crash Investigation Basics, DUI Practice & Procedure, and Cops in Court: DUI Courtroom Preparation. All of these courses were attended by both prosecutors and law enforcement officers, helping to improve communication between these partners. The single-day format is the most efficient and economical method of providing training to both prosecutors and law enforcement. One day out of the office is manageable for most attorneys and officers.

Additionally, a very special course was made possible this spring by Intoximeter, the manufacturer of Illinois' primary breath test instrument, the EC-IR. With no cost to the state, John Evans from Intoximeter made two day-long presentations to prosecutors informing them about the inner workings of the instrument and giving them the answers to many of the most common attacks used by the defense. Overall, the TSRP program has provided training for over 100 Illinois prosecutors from more than 55 counties. As stated earlier, law enforcement officers were present at these seminars as well, with their numbers being equally impressive.

Another primary focus of the TSRP Program has been assessing the strength of the SFST program in Illinois and implementing improvements. To this end, DTS invited the National Highway Safety Administration to Illinois to conduct a formal assessment. This revealed several weaknesses regarding SFST training, use at roadside and testimony in court. Some problems were able to be addressed immediately, such as providing all training entities with the most up-to-date version of the SFST training curriculum. Some solutions will be ongoing, such as training prosecutors on the importance of the standardized battery and how to elicit more effective and persuasive testimony in court. To encourage more thorough investigations at roadside, all law enforcement agencies with alcohol-related grants through DTS will be required to show that those working the programs have updated SFST training. To assist in this endeavor, I am creating a one-day SFST refresher that will be offered throughout the state in the coming year.

All of these projects will continue to be priorities in the upcoming year. In addition to an Ignition Interlock Symposium and an Illinois Lifesavers, I expect to continue offering one-day trainings throughout the state. The one-day SFST refresher will be presented throughout the state. Additionally, I hope to bring current and accurate information on the standardized test battery to Illinois judges. I do my best to contact offices and agencies in the geographical area of the trainings I conduct. If you want to make sure to receive this information, please e-mail me, asking to be placed on the contact list. As always, if you have any traffic safety-related questions, or want to schedule training for your agency, please do not hesitate to ask. My e-mail address is [Elizabeth.Earleywine@Illinois.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Earleywine@Illinois.gov). ⚠️

By Elizabeth Earleywine, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor



# High Tension Cable Median Barrier

The state of Illinois' Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan identifies ten emphasis areas designed to meet Governor Rod R. Blagojevich's goal of reducing fatalities to 1,000 by 2008. The Illinois Department of Transportation's Bureau of Safety Engineering (IDOT/BSE) has been working on multiple strategies in various emphasis areas to help meet this goal.

Roadway departure is an emphasis area where a proposed strategy has been turned into reality. Over half of Illinois' 1,254 fatalities occurred as a result of roadway departure. One strategy under roadway departure is to install High Tension Cable (HTC) median barrier systems, a new generation of cable barrier. These systems improve the chance of avoiding a head-on collision in the event of a crossover. The HTC system is a set of cables stretched between posts typically set at the edge of one shoulder. In one system, the top and bottom cables are closest to the roadway and the middle cable is fastened on the opposite side. When a vehicle strikes the HTC it acts as a soft barrier and the impact is absorbed and distributed to the cables and posts. Tests show that the cables remain at an effective height after one impact. This allows continued use until repairs are needed and can be made. The systems are a low-cost solution to addressing the median crossover crash issue.

The states of Texas, Oklahoma and Ohio are currently using the HTC systems on their highways and free-ways. David Piper, IDOT engineer and Safety Design Unit Chief of the Bureau of Safety Engineering, represented Illinois on a tour of the three states to gather information and learn from their experiences. Here are just a few of the group's conclusion points:

- The median crossover protection systems can reduce fatalities and life-changing injuries by 90 percent.
- The general performance of the cable barrier systems is excellent at redirecting or stopping vehicles.
- Installation and maintenance issues can be improved with experience.

IDOT has operational or planned cable median barrier systems at selected locations throughout the state, including parts of: I-80 and I-57 in District 1, I-55 and I-57 in District 3, I-55 and I-74 in District 4, I-57 and I-74 in District 5, I-55 in District 6, I-55, I-64, and I-270 in District 8 and I-55 and I-57 in District 9. ⚠

By David Piper P.E., Safety Design Engineer  
Brooke Harmony, Bureau of Safety Engineering





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## IDOT Green Initiatives

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has implemented initiatives that place the department and the public on the road to a green journey. IDOT has taken many steps to reduce pollution and waste, to increase green purchasing, to facilitate green building practices and to promote green policies. This has been accomplished using environmentally-friendly construction and reconstruction approaches, issuing biofuel station location information, adding recycling efforts, pursuing public partnerships for highway cleanup and other efforts and by purchasing vehicles and equipment that burn less and cleaner fuel.

Major steps to reduce pollution and protect the air quality were taken during reconstruction of the Dan Ryan and Kingery Expressways in Chicago. The installation of equipment to monitor air quality at numerous locations was included and the readings exceeded US and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IL EPA) standards. Crews were ordered to spray the construction areas with water when dust became a problem and diesel-powered equipment was fitted with emission-control devices and/or used cleaner fuels (ultra-low sulfur diesel). There were also restrictions on how long diesel equipment could idle. The initiative has been heralded as a national model for an environmental approach to highway reconstruction projects by the US EPA.

Within the department, a pilot program is underway to add hybrid Ford Escapes to the motor fleet. The purchasing of these vehicles may reduce pollution, overall fuel consumption and run on home-grown E-85 fuel. Data is being collected on fuel savings and maintenance costs. All heavy trucks (snow and ice removal trucks and other large trucks) purchased will have the ability to burn biodiesel fuel.

IDOT remains committed to the promotion and use of biofuels. The use of alternative fuel use can be instrumental in the reduction of our dependence on foreign oil, reduction of pollution and is a stimulus for the agricultural and general economy of Illinois. IDOT acted on the voices from the motoring public regarding the difficulty in locating stations that offered biofuels. To that end, IDOT implemented

informative tools for the public including informational pamphlets (available at interstate rest areas and tourism locations), as well as placing a listing on the [www.GettingAroundIllinois.com](http://www.GettingAroundIllinois.com) website. This aspect was accomplished with cooperation from the Illinois Corn Growers Association, Illinois Soybean Association and IL EPA. Blue board signage prior to interstate exits where biofuels are offered is another informative tool used by IDOT. The new 2007-2008 state map also has the biofuel stations locations listed.

Recycling has played a large part in IDOT green initiatives. The department has utilized an aluminum sign recycling program that recycles 45,000 to 50,000 highway and freeway signs annually. This process saves over 190,000 gallons of water per year, conserves 427,000 pounds of aluminum and saves the state over \$600,000 per year. The department recycles paper through the I-Cycle Paper Recycling Program, recycles used motor oil and antifreeze and has master contracts for the recycling of toner cartridges and road barricades.

The use of wind turbines to supply energy to selected interstate rest areas is also being explored. IDOT has recommended that a study be conducted by the Illinois Center for Transportation at University of Illinois-Chicago (UIUC) to determine the feasibility of this plan.

Another successful program to help keep the environment in Illinois cleaner and more appealing to travelers is the Adopt-A-Highway Program (Love the Land of Lincoln). Illinois roadways are kept cleaner in part through the efforts of nearly 17,000 Adopt-A-Highway volunteers who have adopted 3,400 miles of highway. This IDOT program enables approximately 32,000 bags of litter to be removed each year. The department's new Love the Land of Lincoln - Please Don't Litter Campaign bolsters this keep Illinois clean effort by extending litter awareness throughout Illinois.

When all is said and done, IDOT has paved the way to a cleaner, healthier and more beautiful Illinois. ▲

By Stephen A. Massey, IDOT Community Relations Manager



# 3rd Annual Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest is in Full Swing

**ELEMENTARY STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE STATE ARE ENCOURAGED TO ENTER**

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is looking for talented, artistic students in Kindergarten through 6th grade, who have an eye for art and work zones. IDOT is reaching out to children in elementary schools throughout the state to help promote work zone safety.

In 2006, 29 people were killed in work zone-related crashes in Illinois. Of these fatalities, 27 were the driver or passenger in these vehicles, one was a pedestrian, and one was a worker killed by a careless motorist.

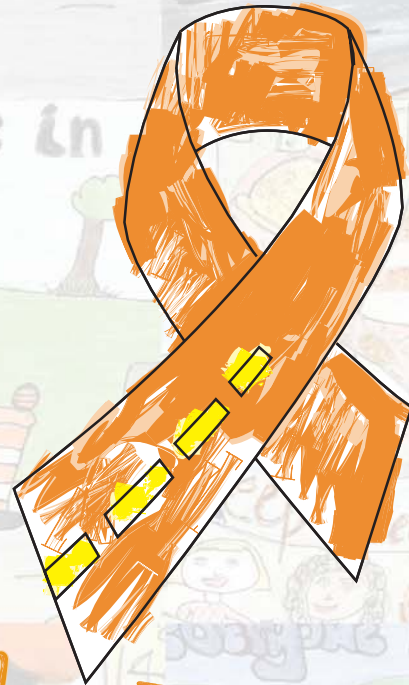
To help reduce these numbers, IDOT, the Illinois State Board of Education, the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation and the Illinois Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) are sponsoring the 2007-2008 Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest.

During the past two years, this contest has educated over 4,200 students on the importance of driving safely in work zones. IDOT hopes to instill in these students a lifelong awareness of work zone hazards and foster safe driving behavior in the future. Through their artwork, these children are teaching others about the significance of work zone safety.

This year's theme is "Keep Us Alive. Stay Alive. Drive 45." Poster entries should reflect the student's view of a work zone and what he or she may find in a work zone.

The contest categories are K-1st Grade, 2nd-3rd Grade and 4th-6th Grade. Each school must select the top 4 posters from each category (12 posters total) and submit them by December 14, 2007 to the:

Illinois Department of Transportation  
Division of Traffic Safety  
Attention: Jessica Baker  
3215 Executive Park Drive  
Springfield, IL 62794



## Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest

Once the entries are received, they will be placed on the IDOT website for the public to vote for their favorite entry to move on to the next round of the contest. The top 30 entries, 10 from each category, will move on to a judging panel who will determine the 12 finalists. The 12 finalists' drawings will be displayed in the 2009 Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar. These finalists will also receive their awards and prizes at an awards luncheon in April 2008. The top 2 finalists in each category will move on to compete in the National Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest sponsored by ATSSA.

If you have additional questions, please contact IDOT's contest coordinator, Jessica Baker, at 217/782-6518 or visit the contest website at <http://www.dot.il.gov/trafficsafety/WZS/WZScontest.html>. ⚠️

By Jessica Baker, Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest Coordinator/Acting Bureau Chief of Safety Data & Data Services

**CAUTION!-Fall/Winter 2007**





# ethics in the workplace

A very distinguished and impressive line of speakers conferred with more than 400 Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) staff, contractors, vendors and engineers to heighten awareness of the importance of practicing ethical behavior in the workplace. The 2nd annual conference held August 21, 2007 in Chicago at the James R. Thompson Center, opened with a stirring rendition of the national anthem by Vincent Rangel, IDOT Deputy Director of the Office of Finance and Administration.

IDOT's Office of Quality Compliance and Review hosted the conference, with assistance from the Office of Operations and Communications. Morning speakers included Dan Kennelly, Director of the Office of Quality Compliance and Review, Secretary Milton Sees, Chief of Staff Clayton Harris, III, Brigadier General Calvin L. Scovel, III, Inspector General of U.S. Department of Transportation, Lawrence Oliver, II, Chief Counsel of Investigations, The Boeing Company and Vice Chair, Illinois Executive Ethics Commission and Robert Paulsen, Chairman of the Board for Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan, Inc. (PBS&J).

Retired United States Marine Corps, Brigadier General Calvin L. Scovel, III, Inspector General of U.S. Department of Transportation, spoke to the large audience and urged those present to think and put into practice the following:

1. Maintain integrity in all transportation programs.
2. Be aware of public expectations.
3. Be ethical in personal decision-making.
4. Explore why unethical practices are not reported more.

Mr. Oliver gave a wonderful "down-to-earth" presentation about the importance of a person's own reputation. Mr. Oliver emphasized how important and fragile a good reputation is to each of us and the people around us and how even one unethical act can destroy a good reputation which may have taken a lifetime to build.

Mr. Paulsen gave a spellbinding presentation outlining the recovery strategies his company engaged in when an internal audit uncovered a multi-million dollar embezzlement scheme that had taken place over 13 years.





The afternoon consisted of a round table discussion moderated by Mr. Harris. Prior to the conference, IDOT employees were given the opportunity to submit their own questions regarding ethics in the workplace. These were presented for discussion by the panel. Panelists included:

- **JOHN F. HARRIS**, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
- **JAMES A. WRIGHT**, Inspector General, Illinois Office of Executive Inspector General
- **SCOTT TUROW**, Author/Attorney and Illinois Executive Ethics Commission Member
- **MARCO G. REYES**, President of the Hispanic American Construction Industry Association and President of the Reyes Group, Ltd.
- **MATTHEW M. WALSH**, Chief Executive Officer, The Walsh Group
- **ELLEN SCHANZLE-HANSKINS**, Chief Counsel, Ethics Officer, Illinois Department of Transportation

Discussion ensued around what a good ethics program should look like. Information from the morning speakers and the panelists touched on the following points:

- A good ethics program should have commitment by leadership.
- The agency should have periodic case study discussion (like the example from PBS&J).
- Have periodic reviews and follow up to find potential problems.
- The program should include contractors and vendors.

Mr. Wright mentioned that only 3-5 percent of public employees are engaged in misconduct. Mr. Turow stated that most people (public/government employees) arrive at their workplace with the intention of doing the right thing.

As public servants, IDOT employees have a duty to foster ethical behavior in the workplace. There are several ways an employee can report unethical behavior: to the Bureau of Civil Rights, to the Office of Quality Compliance and Review, to the Office of the Executive Inspector General or to their immediate supervisor or manager. ⚠️

By Dianne Williams, Community Relations Manager, Chicago



# ISBE & IDOT Team-up to Stress Importance of School Bus Safety

NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK • OCT. 22 – 26

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) reminded students, parents and drivers about the importance of school bus safety both on and off the school bus during National School Bus Safety Week. The theme for the week, "Be Aware, Cross with Care," reminded Illinois' school children to be mindful of hazards any time they must cross the street and are walking to and from the bus stop.

"Many of our more than 2 million students either ride the school bus to and from school or to an extra-curricular activity. While school buses are the safest way for students to be transported, accidents do occur," said Illinois State Superintendent of Education Christopher A. Koch. "Many accidents involving school buses occur as a result of motorists who attempt to pass a stopped school bus with flashing red warning lights while students load or unload. By observing National School Bus Safety

Week, we are drawing attention to the importance of bus safety in Illinois."

School Bus Safety Week was established in 1966 and is celebrated the third full week of October each year. The goal is to educate students, parents and the motor-ing public about the safety of our nation's children who are transported daily on yellow school buses.

"The number one priority for the Illinois Department of Transportation is the safety of all those who use our roadways, and this is especially true when it comes to the safety of everyone who rides a school bus," said IDOT Secretary Milton R. Sees. "IDOT's Division of Traffic Safety has a rigorous school bus safety inspection program and we work closely with school systems across the state to ensure that our school buses meet the safety standards all of us expect. At the same time, drivers have an obligation to make sure they follow the law when they see a school bus on the road."

The American Public Transit Association reports that approximately 400,000 yellow school buses serve American elementary and high school students. In Illinois alone, there are roughly 29,000 schools buses in operation. In all, about 22.5 million school-age children ride yellow school buses to and from school nationwide.

There are several new school bus transportation laws that impact both motorists and school bus drivers:

- **PUBLIC ACT 95-0105**, effective January 1, 2008, states that if the owner of a vehicle that illegally passes a school bus stopped to load or unload students contends that another person was driving the vehicle, the State's Attorney acting in response to a signed complaint may require the owner to identify the driver in a written statement or deposition. Failure of the vehicle owner to identify the driver shall result in a three month suspension of the owner's vehicle registration.





- **PUBLIC ACT 95-0176**, effective January 1, 2008, requires each school bus operated in Illinois to display a telephone number on the rear of the bus to be used to report erratic driving. Requires school districts and contractors to have a policy in place to investigate reports of erratic driving and to report what action was taken to the complainant.
- **PUBLIC ACT 95-0260**, effective August 17, 2007, requires each school district and contractor in Illinois to have a policy in place by January 1, 2008, that requires the driver to shut off the ignition, activate the interior lights and walk to the rear of the bus to check for children still on board. If an electronic device is used, that device must activate the interior lights when the ignition is shut off.
- **PUBLIC ACT 95-0319**, effective August 21, 2007, allows the strobe light on a school bus to be illuminated at any time a bus is being used as a school bus and is bearing one or more pupils.
- **PUBLIC ACT 95-0352**, effective August 23, 2007, will allow both a visual and audio recording to be made on the interior of a school bus when transportation is provided for any school-related activity. Notice of such recordings will have to be provided to parents, students, be clearly posted on the entrance door and inside the school bus. Recordings must be held confidential and can only be used by school officials and law enforcement personnel for disciplinary actions or prosecutions related to incidents occurring in or around the school bus.

For more information about school bus safety, visit ISBE's school bus safety section online at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/html/bus safety.htm](http://www.isbe.net/funding/html/bus%20safety.htm). ⚠

By Andrea Preston, ISBE Public Information Officer Assistant

## National School Transportation News

The 14th Annual School Transportation News School Bus EXPO Conference and Trade Show was held in Reno, Nevada on July 28-29, 2007. The conference encompasses the many areas relating to school bus safety. This includes new techniques to handle the fiscal, maintenance, human resources, security, Head Start, special needs and management responsibilities that go along with being a member of the school bus industry.

Officer Robert Brasky, Lake Zurich Police Department and Illinois Traffic Safety Leaders (ITSL) Vice-President and Gene Richardson, Streamwood Police Department and ITSL Secretary were speakers at the conference which included more than 40 workshops.

Mr. Brasky and Mr. Richardson taught the National Highway Safety Administration-developed workshop on proper installation of child safety seats on school buses. Fifty-seven students attended 8-hour Child Passenger Safety Training for School Buses class with 57 students in attendance. The class was so well received that Robert and Gene have been invited back for the 2008 conference. ⚠

By Robert Brasky & Gene Richardson, Child Passenger Safety Instructors



# IDOT Unveils Dan Ryan Art Wall Medallions

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Chief of Staff Clayton Harris, III celebrated the Dan Ryan Art Wall Project with Chicago artist Bernard Williams and student artist Andre Morgan at the Little Black Pearl Art and Design Center in Hyde Park earlier this year. During an August press conference, IDOT unveiled the six medallion designs that will be on permanent display along the new retaining walls between 51st and 59th streets.

The six designs include three by Chicago public school students, two by Bernard Williams; and the IDOT logo. The Chicago public school students who live in communities along the Dan Ryan submitted their designs which were chosen by the public in an online contest. This permanent concrete canvas is viewed by more than 300,000 drivers each day.

"IDOT is ensuring the community contributes to every facet of the reconstruction of the Dan Ryan," said IDOT Chief of Staff Clayton Harris, III. "Carla and the youth at Little Black Pearl created some very beautiful designs, showcasing our theme of Transportation to the Future." Carla Carr is an instructor at Little Black Pearl Art and Design Center.

"These students will be able to see their handiwork for decades to come," said IDOT Secretary Milt Sees. "The entire Dan Ryan reconstruction project is designed to enhance the quality of life for everyone who lives near it and travels it."

IDOT has also partnered with Chicago Gateway Green and CTE engineers on the Art Wall Project along with WPWX-FM Power 92.3 and the Chicago Public Schools. ⚠️

By Dianne Williams, Community Relations Manager, Chicago

**EDITOR'S NOTE** – This pioneering organization was founded by Monica Haslip who now serves as its executive director. Per their website, *the mission of Little Black Pearl is to create opportunities for youth and adults to deepen their creative involvement through the arts, cultivate their entrepreneurial skills and use the arts as a means for economic empowerment and community transformation.*

*Beginning as a dream ten years ago in the basement of a gray stone, today Little Black Pearl is a thriving nonprofit serving youth in the Kenwood/Oakland, Woodlawn, and Bronzeville neighborhoods on Chicago's south side. Firmly rooted in the black community, as the population has changed, so has Little Black Pearl by working with an increasingly diverse youth population and adding curriculum and services for adults and families. Today's home for Little Black Pearl is a state of the art 40,000 square foot Little Black Pearl Art and Design Center located in the Kenwood/Oakland neighborhood. This cultural arts center not only houses LBP but provides opportunities in art, culture and entrepreneurship to youth, adults and families across Chicago. For additional information on Little Black Pearl Art and Design Center please visit them at their website [www.blackpearl.org](http://www.blackpearl.org).*





# Excellence in Graphic Design

In our 2006 Spring/Summer issue of CAUTION! Magazine, we offered our readers a behind-the-scenes look at the talented Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) print shop staff that produces this magazine. The creative and talented work of Jason A. Gould, who is responsible for the magazine's design and layout, was recognized by liquidlibrary's Annual Design Competition. His work was given Certificates of Excellence in the categories of Magazine and Poster (see designs below).

As noted on their website, *liquidlibrary*, from Jupiter images, is the #1 place on the web to find professional, royalty-free illustrations, stock photos, Flash, PowerPoint, audio and more. Drawing on our extensive experience of offering creative professionals with great imagery for nearly half a century, we continue to expand our image library by purchasing high-quality illustrations and images from top freelance artists around the world.

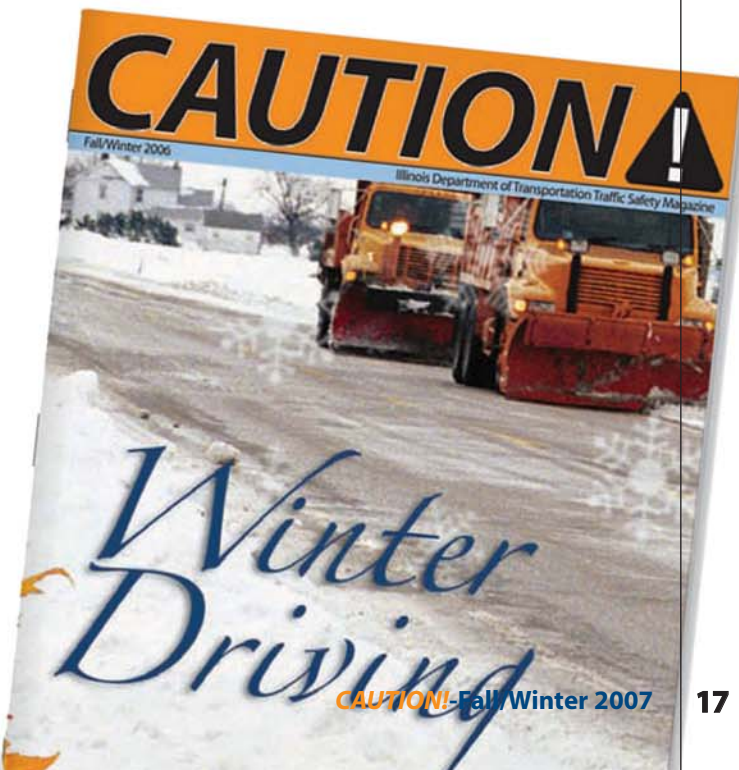
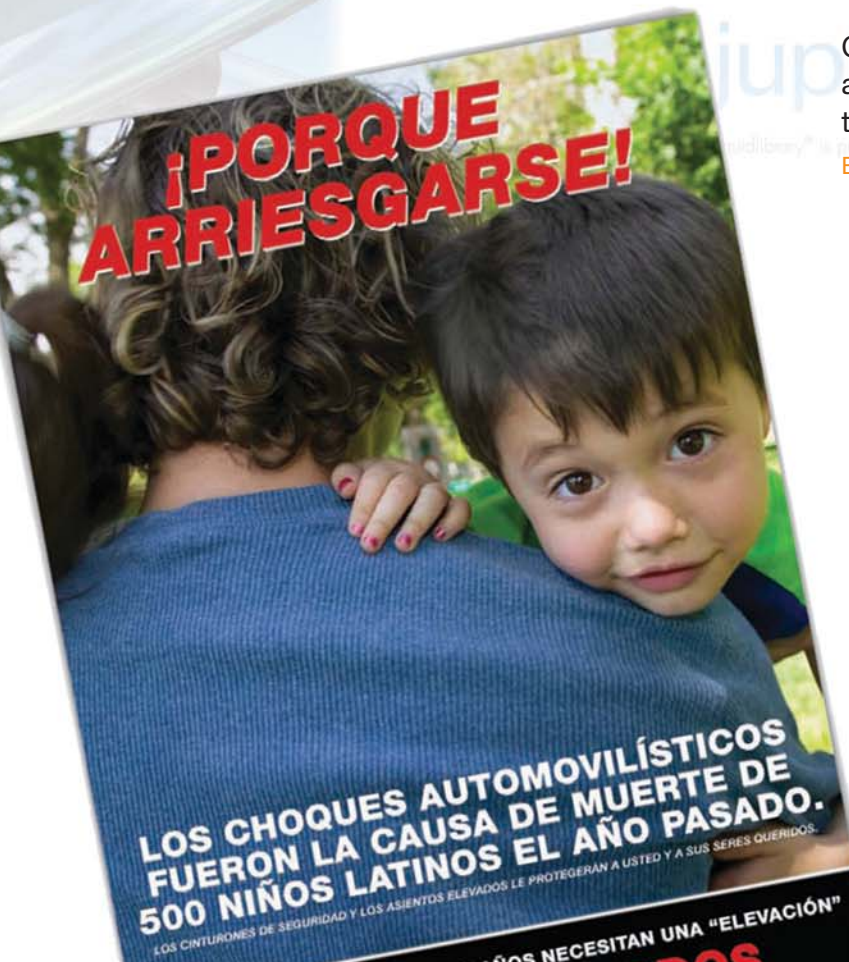
Jason is a Graphic Designer with Central Management Services and IDOT. He received his degree from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois where he later worked as their Senior Graphic Designer and Art Director. His diverse

graphic design employment background includes: SIU School of Medicine, Catholic Health Association of the United States, Franklin Life Insurance Company and Hamlin, Power & Reaves LTD.

When asked what inspires him on projects and how he keeps a creative edge, Jason responded, "Inspiration for me comes from addressing the challenges of the design process. This includes the turn-around-time, imagery, text, target audience, etcetera. There are many factors involved in anything designed and putting all these elements together in my head and then "on paper" is much more involved than hitting a key on the keyboard. Clients often send me an e-mail or drop-off some scribbled ideas and it is very satisfying to know that a finished piece is produced from these raw ideas. In terms of traffic safety designs, it is inspiring to know that what I design draws attention to some very important safety message and in turn it really helps people. I keep my creative edge by constantly looking through art magazines, art websites and photography. Nature and the outdoors recharge my batteries and clear my head which allow for my renewed, creative energy."

Current and past issues of CAUTION! Magazine are available on line at [www.dot.il.gov/trafficsafety/tsmagazine.html](http://www.dot.il.gov/trafficsafety/tsmagazine.html). ⚠️

By Salvatore Madonia, Editor-In-Chief, CAUTION! Magazine





# Kingery Expressway Reconstruction Project

Four years after the first jackhammer hit the pavement, the Kingery Expressway reconstruction project (I-80/94) – including the other Southland Corridor routes of Illinois Route 394 and the Bishop Ford Freeway (I-94) – are free of major roadwork.

“I’ll keep it simple: We’re done!” said Clayton Harris III, Illinois Department of Transportation’s (IDOT) Chief of Staff. “A Kingery-Size Thank You” goes out to Southland neighbors and drivers for their patience during these past four years, plus all the men and women who spent cold winters and hot summers rebuilding one of the region’s busiest routes.

The final leg of the Kingery Expressway reconstruction project wrapped up during the week of the July 4th holiday. All lanes on the eastbound and westbound Kingery between the Tri-State Toll Highway and Calumet Avenue in Indiana were opened before the holiday. Also opened were two towering flyover bridges that serve as the centerpiece of the Southland Interchange, which connects the Kingery with the Bishop Ford Expressway (I-94), Illinois Route 394 and the Tri-State Toll Highway (I-80/294).

Other major work included:

- Reconstructed and widened Kingery Expressway to four lanes
- Reconstructed and widened Bishop Ford Freeway to at least four lanes south of 159th Street
- Rebuilt and reconfigured Torrence Avenue interchange
- Installed high-mast tower lighting for improved nighttime visibility
- Constructed sound walls throughout the corridor to minimize traffic noise in neighboring communities

Work along the Kingery Expressway began in 2003. From day one, IDOT worked closely with other agencies – the Illinois Toll Highway and Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) – to coordinate construction schedules and lane closures throughout the corridor. Indiana Department of Transportation’s recent work on the Borman Expressway and the Illinois Toll Highway’s South Tri-State rebuild and widen – coupled with IDOT’s Kingery Expressway reconstruction as the centerpiece – were all coordinated to address the needs of capacity, traffic flow, and deteriorating pavement.

“Two key communication elements helped IDOT complete this project successfully: community relations and media relations,” said Cheiko High, IDOT Project Manager (Office of Operations and Communications). “IDOT worked very closely with businesses, elected officials, community groups and faith-based organizations. We communicated with all of these groups through community meetings, flyers, newsletters and billboards,” said High. “Newspapers and broadcast stations also were very important with keeping motorists fully informed about the many lane configuration changes.”

At the time the project began, the Kingery Expressway was more than 50 years old. It opened in 1950 beginning the nearly two decade-long construction of the Chicago area’s expressway and Toll Highway system. The old Kingery was designed to handle a fraction of its current 160,000 vehicles per day. In 2020, the volume is expected to expand to about 192,000 vehicles per day. The new road is a modern state-of-the-art facility improving safety and offering congestion relief to local and cross-country travelers. 🚧

By Dianne Williams, Community Relations Manager, Chicago





## Springfield Signs

### A TRAFFIC SAFETY PARTNER

If you drive east on Ash Street towards Dirksen Parkway, you will frequently see a neon sign sporting traffic safety messages. Joe O'Neill, owner of Springfield Signs, is one of our newest Traffic Safety Partner Award winners.

Joe's messages of "buckle up" or "don't drink and drive", emphasizes the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety's (IDOT/DTS) programs to help save lives. When presenting Joe with his partnership plaque, DTS Director Michael Stout asked what motivated him to include these messages. His reply was a simple, "If I can do something to help save a life, I will. What goes around, comes around." ⚠️

**Congratulations Joe. Keep up the good work.**

By Lisabeth Granzau, Executive Secretary  
to the Deputy Director



## Getting Around Illinois

For Illinois construction zone updates visit us at:

**[WWW.GETTINGAROUNDILLINOIS.COM](http://WWW.GETTINGAROUNDILLINOIS.COM)**

"Southland Corridor" Reconstruction  
Kingery Expressway/Bishop Ford Freeway/Route 394

Photograph provided by Bureau of Operations



# State Fair Days

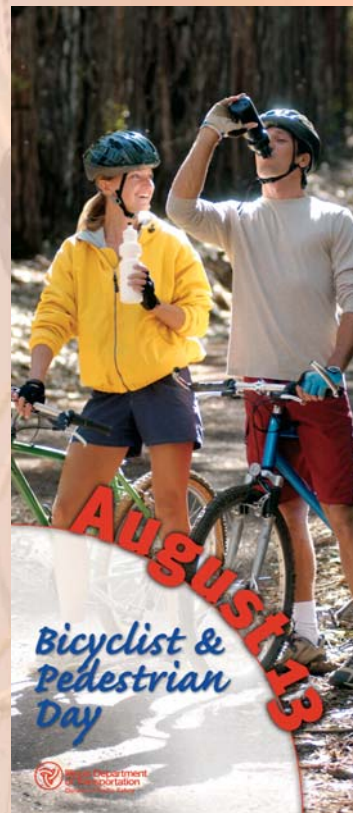
Celebrate and Educate was the theme of the 2007 Illinois State Fair. The Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety (IDOT/DTS) participated in the fair with a renewed and innovative approach. Each day of the fair's 10-day run was dedicated to a specific IDOT/DTS program. The celebrated programs were: School Bus Safety Day, Motorcycle Safety Day, Occupant Protection Day, Bicycle Safety Day, Impaired Driving Safety Day, Teen Driving Safety Day, Crash Data/MCR Day, Speed/Distracted Driving Day and Motor Carrier Safety Days. The eye-catching graphics and banners, that were changed daily to coincide with the day's theme/focus, were designed by Jason Gould, Central Management Services, Graphic Designer. Tom Courtney, Steve Geyston, Daryl Barnes, Lonnie Lucas and Rich Dalsin of the Displays and Exhibit Shop designed an oak safety bar and display to accommodate the changing exhibits. Their craftsmanship showcased each day's theme. Please enjoy the sampling of photographs. ⚠️

By Salvatore Madonia, Editor-In-Chief, CAUTION! Magazine





## Bicycle and Pedestrian Day at the State Fair



August 13, 2007 was designated as Bicyclist and Pedestrian Day for Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety (IDOT/DTS) tent at the Illinois State Fair. DTS employees were joined by volunteers Jerry and Diane Balin and Randy Neufeld from the Chicago-Land Bicycle Federation, Kevin Greene and Christine and Karl Kohlrus from the League of Illinois Bicyclists and Bob Buckley from the Stop for Maya campaign in handing out information and safety incentives.

Maya, her brother and mother were crossing a street by the Lincoln Park Zoo when a driver failed to stop at a stop sign and

struck them. Maya, a four year old child, tragically lost her life and her mother and five year old brother were injured. A large display panel with family photographs and script illustrated Maya's story. As a reminder to always stop at stop signs, pens with tops designed in the shape of a stop sign having Stop for Maya printed on them were available. In an effort to promote safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, clip-on blinking lights were also available. The blue clip-on lights allow pedestrians and bicyclists to be more visible to motorists. Although not designed as a replacement for required safety equipment for nighttime bicycle riding, they do provide increased visibility and thus increased safety.

All of the volunteers interacted with state fair visitors, responding to questions and providing educational information. For additional bicycle and pedestrian safety information, visit the following websites maintained by each respective organization. ⚠️

[www.biketraffic.org](http://www.biketraffic.org)  
[www.healthystreets.org](http://www.healthystreets.org)  
[www.ChicagoWalks.org](http://www.ChicagoWalks.org)  
[www.bicyclingambassadors.org](http://www.bicyclingambassadors.org)  
[www.stopformaya.org](http://www.stopformaya.org)

By John Werthwein, IDOT/DTS Admin. Support Section Manager & DTS Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Coordinator



# Winter Driving

Driving during winter weather conditions is sometimes hazardous at best. Below is some information you may find useful as you prepare to confront the winter season.

*If you must use your car during a storm...*

- Plan your travel, selecting both primary and alternate routes.
- Let someone know your travel routes and itinerary so that, if you don't arrive on time, officials will know where to search for you.
- Check latest weather information on your radio.
- Try not to travel alone - two or three people are preferable.
- Travel in convoy (with another vehicle) if possible.
- Drive carefully and defensively. Watch for ice patches on bridges and overpasses.
- If a storm begins to be too much for you to handle, seek refuge immediately.
- If your car should become disabled, stay with the vehicle, running your engine and heater for short intervals. Be sure to "crack" a window in the vehicle to avoid carbon monoxide build-up.

Reliable transportation is especially important in the winter. If you have a car, make sure it is ready for whatever winter may bring. Not only should your car be kept in top operating condition all year round - for safety and fuel economy, it is especially important to get it winterized to avoid any unpleasant or dangerous situation while traveling in frigid weather.

*The following should be checked:*

- ignition system
- fuel system
- brakes
- exhaust system
- wiper blades
- snow tires
- tire tread
- defroster
- proper grade oil
- cooling system
- battery
- lights
- antifreeze



Always fill the gasoline tank before entering open country, even for a short distance, and stop to fill-up long before the tank begins to run low.

Keeping your tank as full as possible will minimize condensation, providing the maximum advantage in case of trouble. A Citizens Band (CB) radio and/or cellular phone can be very useful

to you or another stranded motorist in case of an emergency.

## COFFEE CAN SURVIVAL KIT

*Here's how to make your own:*

- 2 or 3 pound coffee can (punch 3 holes at the top of can, equal distance apart)
- 60-inch length of twine or heavy string (cut into 3 equal pieces - used to suspend can)
- 3 large safety pins (tie string to safety pins and pin to car roof interior to suspend can over candle)





- 1 candle 2" diameter (place on lid under suspended can for melting snow)
- 1 pocket knife, reasonably sharp (or substitute with scissors)
- 3 pieces of bright cloth 2" wide x 36" long (tie to antenna or door handle)
- Several packets of soup, hot chocolate, tea, bouillon cubes, etc. (mixed into melted snow to provide warmth and nutrition)
- 1 small package of peanuts (provides protein) & fruit-flavored candy (orange slices, jelly beans, etc.-avoid chocolate)
- 1 pair of athletic socks (cotton) and 1 pair of glove liners (cotton)
- 2 packages of book matches
- 1 sun shield blanket or 2 large green or black plastic leaf bags (to reflect body heat)
- 1 pen light and batteries (keep separate)

When complete, place stocking cap over kit and carry in passenger compartment of car. If you have a 3 pound can, you will still have additional room for band-aids, aspirin, small radio, etc. If there is still room left, increase the quantity of any of the above items or improvise items you feel might be necessary.

Remember hypothermia (rapid loss of body temperature) can happen to anyone!

Stay in your car until help arrives!

An accident or severe weather situation can occur at any time. Your driver must be aware of the effects of cold weather in the event he or she becomes stranded.

### BE ALERT TO FROSTBITE CONDITIONS

Exposed skin can freeze within one minute at wind-chill equivalent temperatures below -25 F. Frostbite affects the extremities, such as fingers and toes. If a body part has been frostbitten once, it is more susceptible to frostbite again, even in milder conditions. Redness and a burning sensation are indications frostbite will occur unless the extremity is warmed. Numbness is an indication that frostbite has already taken place. If frostbite is discovered, hold the affected part tightly against the warm skin or another part of the body; (for example place frozen fingers under arm). When thoroughly warmed, keep covered and make an effort to keep area from freezing again.

### HYPOTHERMIA

Under conditions of prolonged exposure to cold, the body may begin to lose heat faster than it can produce it. A condition called hypothermia begins to develop. The symptoms become very apparent, and include:

- uncontrollable shivering
- vague, slow, slurred speech
- memory lapses
- incoherence
- immobile, fumbling hands
- frequent stumbling
- lurching gait
- drowsiness
- apparent exhaustion

### WIND CHILL EQUIVALENT TEMPERATURES

The true effect of winter weather on your body can be deceiving. While the air temperature may not seem too cold, the wind may increase its effect. To find the wind chill, find the actual air temperature in the "Calm Air" column, then look for the corresponding value under the column closest to the current air speed. For example, if the actual air temperature is 20 degrees Fahrenheit, a wind speed of 30 mph makes the air feel like -18 degrees. ⚠

From the Illinois State Police Website





## Checklist & Tips for Safe

# Winter Driving



Regardless of season, you should inspect your tires at least once a month and always before embarking on a long road trip. It only takes about five minutes. If you find yourself driving under less-than-optimal road conditions this winter, you'll be glad you took the time!

- Check tire pressure and make sure each tire is filled to the vehicle manufacturer's suggested PSI (pounds per square inch) of air pressure, which is listed in your owner's manual and on a label inside the driver's door.
- Keep a tire pressure gauge in your vehicle at all times and check pressure when tires are "cold" — meaning they haven't been driven on for at least three hours.
- Look closely at your tread and replace tires with uneven wear or insufficient tread. Tread should be at least 1/16 of an inch or greater on all tires.

Every vehicle handles somewhat differently; this is particularly true when driving on wet, icy, or snowy roads. Take time now to learn how to best handle your vehicle under winter weather driving conditions.

- Practice cold weather driving when your area gets snow — but not on a main road! Until you've sharpened your winter weather driving skills and know how your vehicle handles in snowy conditions, it's best to practice in an empty lot in full daylight.
- Drive slowly. It's harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface. On the road, sufficiently increase your following distance so you'll have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you.
- A word of caution about braking: Know what kind of brakes your vehicle has and how to use them properly. In general, if you have anti-lock brakes, apply firm pressure, if you have non anti-lock brakes, pump the brakes gently.
- If you find yourself in a skid, stay calm and ease your foot off the gas while carefully steering in the direction you want the front of your vehicle to go. This procedure, known as "steering into the skid," will bring the back end of your car in line with the front.

Keep yourself and others safe by planning ahead before you venture out into bad weather.





- Check the weather, road conditions, and traffic; plan to leave early if necessary.
- Don't rush! Allow plenty of time to get to your destination safely.
- Familiarize yourself with directions and maps before you go, and let others know your route and anticipated arrival time.
- Keep your gas tank close to full. If you get stuck in a traffic jam or in snow, you might need more fuel to get home or keep warm. Note: To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning when stuck in snow, be sure to keep your vehicle's exhaust pipe clear of snow and ice, run your vehicle only in the open with the windows partially down, and run it only long enough to keep warm.
- If road conditions are hazardous, avoid driving if possible. Wait until road and weather conditions improve before venturing out in your vehicle.

Carry items in your vehicle to handle common winter driving tasks — such as cleaning off your windshield — as well as any supplies you might need in an emergency. Keep the following on hand:

- Snow shovel, broom, and ice scraper.
- Abrasive material, such as sand or kitty litter, in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow.
- Jumper cables, flashlight and warning devices, such as flares and markers.
- Blankets for protection from the cold.

- A cell phone, water, food, and any necessary medicine (for longer trips or when driving in lightly populated areas).

If you are stopped or stalled in wintry weather, follow these safety rules:

- Stay with your car and don't overexert yourself.
- Put bright markers on the antenna or windows and keep the interior dome light turned on.
- To avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide poisoning, don't run your car for long periods with the windows up or in an enclosed space. If you must run your vehicle, clear the exhaust pipe of any snow and run it only sporadically — just long enough to stay warm! ⚠

From the NHTSA Website







## 2008 'Click It or Ticket' Mobilization Participation Verification

**MAY 16, 2008 – JUNE 1, 2008**

Illinois' safety belt usage rate moved to 90.1 percent, the highest since 1943. It is the goal of the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety (IDOT/DTS) to increase the rate to 93 percent in 2008 and to continue to reduce deaths and injuries due to motor vehicle crashes.

Law enforcement agencies are invited to join our 2008 'Click It or Ticket' mobilization. Please complete and submit the form below.

Once the mobilization has ended each participating agency will be e-mailed a report form to be returned to IDOT/DTS. The receipt of the completed post-mobilization report will allow for agencies to be eligible for awards. Should you have any questions, please contact Law Enforcement Liaison, Dan Kent at 217/962-0667.

**COMPLETE & FAX TO:  
IDOT/DTS LAW ENFORCEMENT LIAISON PROGRAM - 217/558-0141 OR 217/785-3030.**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT PERSON:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FAX NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_



*There Are Many Reasons.  
Don't drink and Drive.*





# Legislative Highlights for Traffic Safety

## NEW LAWS IN ILLINOIS 95TH ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### ALCOHOL & DRUGS

**HB0624** - Provides that provisions relating to driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or intoxicating compounds also apply to persons driving under the influence of methamphetamine. Makes other changes. *Public Act 95-0355 Effective 01/01/2008*

**HB1900** - Creates the Illinois Roadside Memorial Act. Provides for the placement of roadside markers to commemorate the deaths of persons killed in accidents involving impaired drivers. Passed both Houses – Waiting for Governor's action. *Public Act 95-0398 Effective 01/01/2008*

**SB0300** - Makes various changes regarding the consequences of a statutory summary suspension for driving under the influence. Provides for the requirements and use of a BAIID (Breath Alcohol Interlock Ignition Device). Makes other changes. *Public Act 95-0400 Effective 01/01/2009*

### TEEN DRIVERS/GRADUATED LICENSES

**HB0518** – Provides that the Secretary of State may, without fee, allow the parent or guardian of a person under the age of 18 years, who holds a graduated driver's license or an instruction permit, to view the person's driving record online through a computer connection. *Public Act 95-0201 Effective Date 01/01/2008*

**SB0140** – Prohibits a person under the age of 19 years (instead of 18 years) who holds an instruction permit or a graduated license from driving on a roadway while using a wireless phone, except for emergency purposes. *Public Act 95-0338 Effective 01/01/2008*

**SB0172** – Makes various changes regarding: driver education requirements; graduated driver's licenses; instruction permits for minors; curfews for drivers under a specified age; the number of passengers under a specified age allowed in a vehicle driven by a newly licensed driver under a certain age; the use of seat safety belts; the use of wireless telephones by graduated driver's license holders; suspension of driver's licenses of drivers under age 21 under specified circumstances; required appearances before the presiding judge with a parent or guardian under specified circumstances; vehicle impoundment for drivers arrested for street racing; and other matters. Makes other changes. *Public Act 95-0310 Effective 01/01/2008*

**SB1557** – Requires a driver education course to include classroom instruction on distracted driving as a major traffic safety issue. *Public Act 95-0339 Effective 08/21/2008*

### DISTRACTED DRIVERS

**HJR0022** – Creates the Distracted Drivers Task Force Act to study the problem of distracted driving in Illinois, with particular attention to the impact of recent communications technology. *Amendment was adopted 04/19/07.*

### BICYCLE SAFETY

**SB0080** – Provides that the driver of a vehicle overtaking a bicycle or individual proceeding in the same direction on a highway must maintain a distance of at least 3 feet between the vehicle and the bicycle or individual. Makes other changes. *Public Act 95-0231 Effective 01/01/2008*

### OCCUPANT PROTECTION

**SB0071** – Provides that any person transporting a child under the age of 8 years in any truck or truck tractor equipped with seat safety belts is responsible for securing the child in an appropriate child restraint system. Also deletes language providing that any person who transports the child of another shall not be in violation of the provision unless a child restraint system was provided by the parent or legal guardian but not used to transport the child. *Public Act 95-0254 Effective 01/01/2008*

### SCHOOL BUSES/SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

**HB0508** – Sets penalties for a person who commits reckless homicide upon a public thoroughfare where children pass going to and from school when a school crossing guard is performing official duties. Also sets penalties for a person charged with the offense of reckless driving if he or she commits the offense of reckless driving and as a result causes great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement to a child or a school crossing guard while on the school crossing guard is performing his or her official duties. *Public Act 95-0467 Effective 06/01/2008*

**HB3624** – Provides that each school bus shall display at the rear of the bus a visible and readable sign, indicating the telephone number of the owner of the school bus, and indicating that the number is to be called to report erratic driving by the school bus driver. Makes other provisions. *Public Act 95-0176 Effective 01/01/2008*

**SB0166** – Provides that each school district in the state shall have in place, by January 1, 2008, a policy to ensure that the school bus driver is the last person leaving every school bus and that no passenger is left behind or remains on the vehicle at the end of a route, a work shift or the work day. *Public Act 95-0260 Effective 08/17/2007*

By Mary Roseberry, Program Support Unit Manager

**PLEASE NOTE:** The information below was current as of the date of publication for this Fall/Winter 2007 Caution Magazine. If you would like to view any of these bills in their entirety or track their status, please visit the Illinois General Assembly website at: [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov)



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312/793-2242 – Chicago

**DIVISION OF TRAFFIC SAFETY**  
217/782-4972

**CRASH RECORDS**  
217/782-6518

**COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY**  
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217/785-1181

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217/557-6081

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217/782-1606

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**NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY**  
**ADMINISTRATION (NHTSA)**  
**DOT VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE**  
1-888-327-4236



### NOVEMBER 2007

- 12-25 **THANKSGIVING WEEKEND TRAVEL**-occupant protection
- 13-14 Media fly-around announcing  
**"OPERATION TEEN SAFE DRIVING"**
- 18-19 **ILLINOIS DRUG AND EDUCATION ALLIANCE CONFERENCE**  
- Springfield
- 20-30 MADD **"TIE ONE ON FOR SAFETY"** Campaign

### DECEMBER 2007

- 1-31 MADD **"TIE ONE ON FOR SAFETY"** Campaign
- 1-31 **3D MONTH**-National Drunk and drugged Driving  
Prevention Month
- 10-Jan1 **YOU DRINK & DRIVE. YOU LOSE IMPAIRED DRIVING**  
**STATEWIDE HOLIDAY CRACKDOWN**
- 14 **2008 ILLINOIS WORK ZONE SAFETY CALENDAR CONTEST**
- 15 **OPERATION TEEN SAFE DRIVING** applications due to DTS
- 18 **YOU DRINK & DRIVE. YOU LOSE IMPAIRED DRIVING**  
**CRACKDOWN** Press Events

### JANUARY 2008

- 4 Winning high schools notified for **OPERATION TEEN SAFE**  
**DRIVING CAMPAIGN**
- 7 **WORK ZONE SAFETY** entries posted on IDOT  
website-on-line voting begins
- 28 **WORK ZONE SAFETY** voting concludes
- 28-31 **SUPER BOWL** public information and education

### FEBRUARY 2008

- 1-3 **SUPER BOWL** enforcement
- 1 **OPERATION TEEN SAFE DRIVING** campaign timeline due to DTS
- 7-9 **MIDWEST TRUCKERS CONVENTION** – Peoria – DTS exhibit

### MARCH 2008

- 1 **OPERATION TEEN SAFE DRIVING**  
campaign and slogan due to DTS
- 10-17 **ST. PATRICK'S DAY** public information and education
- 11-13 **IGNITION INTERLOCK SYMPOSIUM** – Tentative
- 14-17 **ST. PATRICK'S DAY** enforcement





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